

# Parish of the Good Shepherd

1671 Beacon Street  
Waban, Massachusetts 02468-1401

Telephone: (617) 244-4028

Email: [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org)

Website: [www.goodshepherdnewton.org](http://www.goodshepherdnewton.org)

+ + +

## ON LENT

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 10. Lent lasts for forty days (not including Sundays), and is a time in which we prepare for Holy Week – the solemn remembrance of Jesus’ passion and death – and for Easter, the celebration of his victory over death.

Traditionally, Lent is a time of “giving up” and “taking on.” We give up something in order to clear some space for God, and we take on something to help bring us closer to God. We might give up, or fast from, just one thing – sugar or caffeine, for example; or perhaps we might fast from noise, starting our day with silence rather than with the TV or internet or car radio. What we give up reminds us that what we most need is God. We might take on just one thing – reading a chapter a day from a gospel; reading one or two psalms each day; praying with a book of devotions or other spiritual reading; sitting quietly in God’s presence for 5 or 10 minutes each day. What we take on helps us to focus on God, to stay close to God in a distracted world.

In these days before Lent begins, give some thought to what you might give up and take on. And know that we will not succeed in keeping these practices; we will need to begin and to begin again all through Lent. Mark Searle, a liturgical scholar who taught at Notre Dame, wrote these encouraging words: “Lenten penance may be more effective if we fail in our resolutions than if we succeed, for its purpose is not to confirm us in our sense of virtue but to bring home to us our radical need of salvation.”

~ Sarah

*Mardi Gras Potluck*

**Tuesday, February 9  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

We continue the long tradition of festive celebrations before Lent. Bring a dish to share and join us for music, games, and extravagant food at our annual Mardi Gras potluck.

Kindly RSVP to Kim Nauen at [kimnauen@gmail.com](mailto:kimnauen@gmail.com).

+

On Ash Wednesday,  
February 10,  
Holy Eucharist  
with Imposition of Ashes  
will be offered at  
7:15 a.m., 12:00 Noon,  
and 7:30 p.m. (with music)

# *Parish News - February 3, 2016*

## **Forum: The Holy Spirit**

For most people, the Holy Spirit has been a shadowy presence, something really hard to grasp or relate to. But in fact it is essential that we understand the role the Holy Spirit plays in our faith and in our lives. How did our understanding grow from something mentioned in Scripture to its role as the third and equal person of the Trinity? This is a fascinating story of discerning the nature of God, and you're invited to hear it. This multi-part series began on January 31.

~ *Charles Foster*

## **This Lent, Take a Guided Tour of the Church**

If you've ever wondered what the signs and symbols of our worship mean, join Kourtnei Brown and Sarah Conner for a guided tour of the church. The same tour will be offered on these Sundays: February 21, February 28, and March 6. The tours are family-friendly – children are welcome – and will last no longer than 15 minutes. Tours begin right after the organ postlude ends.

## **John Burruss to Preach on February 21**

On Sunday, February 21, it will be our privilege to have John Burruss, a parishioner of Good Shepherd, as our preacher at both services.

## **Cooks Needed for Easter Coffee Hour**

There will be a special coffee hour on Easter Sunday (March 27), and many cooks and bakers are needed. Please sign up on the bulletin board downstairs if you can help out.

~ *Karen Hamilton*

## **Christian Education News**

### **Snacks for St. Stephens**

On Sunday, February 7 during church school and coffee hour, teenagers are asked to come help prepare snacks for the St. Stephen's after school program.

### **Lenten Devotional**

Every morning during Lent (starting on February 10), a devotional prayer and a challenge will be sent to parishioners through email and Facebook. These challenges are designed to help us raise money for Heifer International while also inviting us to reflect on our own lives.

### **Valentine's Parent's Night Out Sunday, February 14 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

You get to drop off your children and have a date, and they get to have fun with the other children. Children from the community are also welcome. We suggest a donation of \$20, which will go to Heifer International and our new youth program. Youth are invited to help the adults present supervise. If your youth would like to help with this fundraiser, contact Kourtnei Brown. RSVP to Kourtnei Brown [ce@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:ce@goodshepherdnewton.org)

---

### **Next Newsletter**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Tuesday, February 16.** Please email your items to our Parish Administrator, Margaret Harrison, at [office@goodshepherdnewton.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdnewton.org). Thank you!